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***Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation***

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**Tsibet kebele FRGs Meeting and Kebele 2nd Operational IP Meeting Notes**

**31st Oct-1st Nov 2014, Tsibet Kebele**

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## **Day 1 - Farmers Research Groups Meeting at Tsibet Kebele**

**Date**: 31st Oct 2014

**Place**: Tsibet Kebele

**Participants** from Addis: Annet Mulema, Elias Damtew and Zelalem Lema (ILRI)

**Endamehoni** **TG members** participated: Sihen Kinfu (MU), Getachew Kahsay (M-ATVET), Haftai Kahsay (GRAD), Gubena Reda (Tsibet Kebele OIP Facilitator), Birhanu G/kiross(Embahasti kebele OIP Facilitator), Getachew Bisrat (ASC), Mohammed Ebrahim (SC)

**Facilitator**: Getachew (ILRI)

**Documentation of notes and photo**: Mohamed (ILRI)

**Farmers participated**: a total of 69 farmers from all protocols joined the FRGs meetings out of which 13 female farmers.

**Agenda**

* Welcome and introduction of the Innovation Platform concept and structures
* Brief introduction of the FRG as an innovation cluster and its connection to Kebele and Woreda IPs
* Selection of representatives by members of each FRGs to be a member of Kebele IP and giving local names to their FRG
* Consultation of the Farmers Field Day and Kebele IP meeting with FGR members

**Welcome and Introduction to IP**

The meeting started with blessings from religious leader and then Getachew facilitated through introducing the purpose of the FRGs meeting. Gtecahew briefly introduced the concept of IP and its structure with in endamehoni woreda. These includes the woreda SIP, kebele OIP and the FRGS and he introduced the linkages between these structures and communication channels. The TG members at different level are the one who will make sure that the woreda is linked to the kebele and then to FRGs.

**Introducing the FRGs as an innovation cluster and their functions are:**

* + They are closely working together on each protocol
  + They support each other – technically with in FRG
  + As much as possible they should try to be successful as a group
  + Through their representatives they can seek support or raise any issues from kebele and woreda TG members
  + They can meet as appropriate to discuss issues that need to be raise through their representatives
  + There will be training, experience sharing, field days other tools to strengthen farmers voice in all decision making processes
* To select their representatives from each FRG to be a member for Tsibet Kebele level operational IP.

Criteria to select farmers – it has been discussed by farmers and they agreed on the following criteria:

* Respectful and trusted farmers in their public speech
* Who will actively participate at OIP level
* Who is willing to share back to their FRG members
* Who is a model farmer
* Who can write and read (optional)

Based on these a discussion was made on how to select their representatives. Since some of the farmers participated in more than one protocol the farmers agreed that they should discuss in one FRG at a time to select their representatives. Then the farmers’ member to the Apple FRG first started their group discussion with facilitation from Woreda TG members to select their representatives. They agreed to give the local name for their group and called it “Freweyni Apple FRG” with a member of 25 of which 6 are female farmers. They select two representatives from male and female as a nominee and then based on the majority voice they select one from each. The selected representatives were asked to made a speech on their selection and if they are willing to participate regularly on kebele OIP. Then farmers interestingly taken the position and promised their FRG member to represent their group. Similar steps and procedures was applied for the other four FRGs. The local name of each group and their representatives are shown in the following table:

**Table 1: Tsibet kebele FRGs and their representatives for the kebele OIP**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | Name of the FRG | Number of male farmers | Number of female farmers | Name of Selected representatives and gender |
| 1 | *Freweyni* Apple FRG | 19 | 6 | * Tadesse Kiros (M) * Debese Berhe (F) |
| 2 | *Lemlem* Tree Lucerne FRG | 28 | 4 | * Hadis Teka (M) * Haftu Samuel (M) * Temesgen W/Senbet (F) |
| 3 | *Hidase* Wheat FRG | 29 | 2 | * Kesh Haftu Kiros (M) * Kesh Yohans Hagos (M) |
| 4 | *Hagazit* Forage FRG | 5 | 6 | * Kesh Meresa Haftu (M) * Amarech Teka (F) |
| 5 | PVS and seed multiplication FRG | 5 |  | * Hayelom Gidey (M) * Berhe Kahsay (M) * Afera Hailu (M) * Belete Kiros (M) * Negash Siyum (M) |

Then, finally all the FRG members come together and introduced to 14 selected representatives of which 3 are female farmers. The last discussion was where and what time the 2nd kebele OIP meeting will take place. The farmers raised their concern that tomorrow is a market day and they want the meeting to take place at Endamehoni woreda office of agriculture venue in the morning.

Issues raised about the farmers’ field day which is planned to take place on Sunday (2nd Nov 2014) at their kebele and the woreda TG members informed all the FRG members to attentively participate in the field day as the woreda IP members will participate.

Then the FRGs meeting was closed and a group photo was taken by AR staffs.

**Actions:**

* The kebele facilitator –Gobena (Development Agent)



# **Day 2 - 2nd Tsibet kebele Operational IP meeting**

**Venue**: Endamehoni woreda office of agriculture and rural development

**Participants**: 33 participants from Tsibet Kebele level and one facilitator from Embahsti Kebele. The woreda TG members count 6 and the Addis level participants count 3 (Elias, Annet and Zelalem)

**Date**: 1st Nov 2014 start time at 9:18 am

**Agenda of the OIP meeting:**

* Opening remarks – made by kebele IP Chairman
* Works done so far – by Mohamed and Getachew
* Challenges and opportunities in implementing the protocols – plenary discussion – to provoke discussion by Kebele IP Secretary (Gebre and Gobena)
* Brief on Most Significant Change Story – by Elias and Getachew
* Farmers field day – who is going to be visited, why, who should participate – Abera and Mohamed – AGP
* Scale up issues - how better should we scale up from farmers to farmers – Haftai and Mohamed

How IP will contribute to scaling up- their own strategy

* Selection of representatives in woreda SIP – in addition to Facilitator (Chairman, Facilitator, one rep from each FRG)
* The way forward: next Kebele OIP meeting? Activities
* Refreshment – organized by Kagnaw, Mohamed and Haftai

**Saturday morning at office of agriculture**

**start time 9:18**

Getachew (assistant site coordinator) to facilitate on behalf of Gobena who couldn’t able to join the IP meeting

* Participants are from woreda Strategic IP TG members,
* Opening remarks and welcome - by Tsibet kebele chairman
* Getachew – facilitating and letting the members to meet the selected representatives from each FRGs- the representatives stands to introduce their name and brief about the new name they give it to each FRGs
* Participants self-introduction – facilitated by Getachew
* Brief introduction to the IP concept and practice – Getachew introduced Africa RISING project – works in four regions and four woredas in the country – in Tigray Endamehoni woreda and tow kebeles named Tsibet and Embahasti. At each kebele there are different protocols focusing on Apple, Tree Lucerne, etc involving number of men and women farmers. The different improved varities introduced and being under test in farmers’ field.
* Mohammed – brief on works done by AR- how we are going to scale up? What is role of kebele IP? we are organizing farmers field day – to scale up – for reflection – farmers were reflecting on the works done by Africa RISING at a testing and also its status – they agreed that the IP didn’t follow up from the beginning but we started during the evaluation assessment
* Before AR – we never have access to such kinds of technologies – the chairman appreciated it- and he agrees to follow up and start supporting the intervention as a kebele admin

Getachew discuss on challenges with the OIP members:

* DA- no support from my side but I am an expert assigned for this activity and I could have done it better for scaling up
* AR – trying to do research at farmers level and it requires commitment from farmers to apply, do and organize according to the procedure
* The role of the kebele OIP can be
* Farmers after they allocate farm land for the demonstration then farmers start using it before AR plant on it- so we need the OIP members to support on these and other areas
* Weeding and cultivating and even fencing is sometimes expected from AR while it is a responsibilities of farmers- we AR wants to make the two kebeles model for the woreda
* Actually we couldn’t organize the meeting for discussion like these because of d/t reasons
* AR might not be existing in the woreda after few years but the work should be remain and sustaining if and only if the kebele OIP members are actively engaged and supportive. DAs should know the technique of what AR is doing on so that they will by themselves will support other farmers in the future
* Farmers said heavy rain and snow is affecting potato and tree Lucerne– and Frost affecting wheat is in some of the farmers’ field, lodging effect on demonstrating barely crops where the farmers were suggesting barely should be planted early and on less fertile land. They said also that the local barely six row headed while some of the new varieties are two row headed and will have an implication on yield reduction. Getachew and Mohamed replied that the trial is for the research and we are going to evaluate using different criteria and the final selection will be made by the farmers. The two row headed malt barely seems low yield but it has a high market price.
* Wheat –row planting first our impression was that it will affect the yield but now we have seen that we are going to harvest much yield
* Women farmer – jealousy farmers - up rooting – and take it in the night by few thief farmers
* Kebele manager – responded that we will follow up the problems mentioned by farmers and make sure that the FRG farmers will accomplish their demonstration activities with no problems.

How the OIP will deal with the challenges that farmers mentioned above.

* Mohamed asked the OIP members- as OIP members they will participate in evaluation process and discuss on the results of the assessment – the facilitator and chairman of the kebele OIP is the leading to inform the time and place for a meeting,
* Their response:- they have selected another facilitator to support Gobena in time of his unavailability and Gebre Kebede – kebele manager (0914138551) was selected to support the facilitation with Gobena.

Most important things farmers like about Africa RISING: Farmers mentioned that they have access to improved verities of wheat and potato and some of us have DLS (Diffused Light Storage) for potato seeds. Now farmers can sell seeds and get more incomes. Women said I like AR because it involved women and men in testing new technologies, evaluation and selection of appropriate technologies which was not there before. The DA was appreciating what AR was done in the post-harvest handling techniques for potato besides the new verities introduction to farmers. Collaboration with GRAD to produce Potato seeds at cooperative level and store at DLS level made available the seeds of potato within the kebele. The kebele was in accessible for any research activities before AR and now it is going to become the model kebele for the woreda.

Elias- brief the OIP members –about the M&E tools that is MSC as a means to verify if we achieved the AR goals – Nutrition – income- gender- climate- private sector collaboration.

Zelalem – brief on the structure of IP up to FRG level and the need to have a regular OIP meetings for learning and sharing. The scaling up of the technologies in addition to the farmers field day will mostly happening with the support of OIP.

Finally they have selected one farmer from each five FRGs in addition to the facilitators and chairman to represent Tsibet Kebele OIP in the Woreda Strategic IP. The selected represnetaives are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | Name of the FRG | Number of male farmers | Number of female farmers | Name of Selected representatives and gender |
| 1 | *Freweyni* Apple FRG | 19 | 6 | * Tadesse Kiros (M) |
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| 5 | PVS and seed multiplication FRG | 5 |  | * Belete Kiros (M) * Negash Siyum (M) |

## **List of 2nd Tsibet kebele Operational IP meeting participants**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name** | **Organization** | **Role with in IP** |
| 1 | Tuemey Hailu | Tsibet kebele Chainman | OIP Chair man |
| 2 | Gebre kebede | Kebele manager | Facilitator |
| 3 | Gubena Reda | NRM DA | Facilitator |
| 4 | Birhanu haftu | Kebele propaganda | Member |
| 5 | Azmera Bisrat | Women association rep | Member |
| 6 | Birhanu Hadis | Farmer Association rep | Member |
| 7 | Tesfaye Abadi | Youth association rep | Member |
| 8 | Eyasu Redae | Local court rep | Member |
| 9 | Meresa haile | Cooperative Rep | Member |
| 10 | Hayelom Kalayu | Education rep | Member |
| 11 | Gidey Yirga | Health Rep | Member |
| 12 | Mues kalayu | Plant science DA | Member |
| 13 | Shefena Hadis | Micro credit | Member |
| 14 | Mruts Mola | GRAD community facilitator | Member |
| 15 | Kifros Hageze | Farmer | Member |
| 16 | Selomon Demeke | Farmer | Member |
| 17 | Birhanu G/ kiross | Embahasti Kebele Facilitator | Member |
| 18 | Afera Haftu | Farmer | Member |
| 19 | Yohanes Hagezom | Saving and credit representative | Member |
| 20 | Debese Berhe (F) | Farmer | Member |
| 21 | Hadis Teka (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 22 | Kesh Haftu Kiros (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 23 | Temesgen W/Senbet (F) | Farmer | Member |
| 24 | Amarech Teka (F) | Farmer | Member |
| 25 | Kesh Meresa Haftu (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 26 | Kesh Yohans Hagos (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 27 | Haftu Samuel (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 28 | Tadesse Kiros (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 29 | Belete Kiros (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 30 | Afera Hailu (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 31 | Berhe Kahsay (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 32 | Hayelom Gidey (M) | Farmer | Member |
| 33 | Negash Siyum (M) | Farmer | Member |